

I would like to say that i've lost my faith in the broadcasting industry, but to tell you the truth i've never had any. My mother raised me without television & radio, and i'm afraid I don't blame her. The shallow consumerism projected at all hours on both of these mediums is appalling; i'm glad to have missed out on that.

On May 1st I heard about the momentum my state's LPFM movement was taking and decided to become as much of a part of it as possible. I know we only have until the end of the month to generate more commentary, but I believe that we can succeed.

Doubtless you have recieved many letters just like this, so let me get to my comments on the direction LPFM should take.

The new LPFM permits should be NON-COMMERCIAL. This will prevent them from airing the same drivel as the megastations. You should only licence stations ranging between 1-100 watts, to allow the maximum number of voices access to the public airwaves. LPFMs between 1-100 watts should have a new form of primary status which would protect them from being bumped, but they wouldn't be able to bump anyone else. Hopefully, something like this could calm stations whose status feels threatened by the presence of the LPFMs (i.e; NPR, NAB...).

I also believe that licence holders should be voting residents of the area they wish to broadcast in. The majority of their programming should be locally originated. This would maintain the integrity of the concept "COMMUNITY" radio, so that broadcasters couldn't overlap their signal into a different voting district. This, as well as many other facets of LPFM, has the potential to change the way campaigns are run. In the last few years, we have seen too many seats bought by ad campaigns and misinformation. When a lobbyist owns the stations that a candidate's ad campaign will run on, that lobbyist has too much power over the candidate. Time and time again , we have seen candidates compromise the issues under the pressure recieved by advertising lobbies. As more unbiased commentary appears on community radio, we could see this trend change as voters are more accurately informed about the candidates. The ability of community-district owned broadcasters to affect the future of politics is now apparent- it would put information back in the hands of local voters, and could be a valuable factor in stifling the apathy which has plagued so much of our politics lately.

Cost is probably one of the most important factors in your decisions. The standard \$80k minimum is too prohibitive for most communities and individuals to even dream of. An LPFM should be set up for less than \$5k, rated by wattage. If 2 parties contest for the same frequency, some system other than auction to the highest bidder should be used. Too many good American systems have been ruined by the unnecessary presence of commercial interest. Auctioning off to the highest bidder would once again take the airwaves out of the hands of the people and communities that need LPFM. This scenario would not solve the pirate radio issue, as civil disobedience (the historical American response to disempowerment) would surely be the reply. If the reintroduction of LPFM is designed to end the war on independant micro-broadcasters, making them allies to this society rather than enemies (as I suspect it may be) this response would defeat the purpose of the peace treaty. If you think about it, "pirate" radio is the hero of this movement. From the beginning, they have made damn sure that the public, the community, and the government *know* that the people were unhappy with having their airwaves taken away. They should not be barred from possessing licences as some have suggested. INFORMATION WANTS TO BE FREE !!!!!

